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MAYOR PEREZ TAPS PASSIONATE EDUCATOR TO LEAD OFFICE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

(July 20, 2005) Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez is pleased to welcome José Colón-Rivas as Executive Director, Mayor's Office for Young Children. Dr. Colón-Rivas will oversee and direct efforts to implement early childhood policy, coordinate early childhood planning, and develop a children's budget. The goal is to give children ages zero to eight the skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

Dr. Colón-Rivas is described as an innovative and accomplished educator who has spent more than 14 years dedicated to his mission of making a profound and positive difference in the lives of children. He comes to the Mayor's office from his position as Senior Director of Early Childhood Education and Accreditation with Hartford Public Schools.

Mayor Perez says, "Throughout his academic and professional career, José has empowered thousands of children by opening the doors of opportunity and motivating their desire to learn. His love of Hartford is demonstrated by his effective work with people of all ages and of all cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds."

Dr. Colón-Rivas holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico, a Master's degree from the Interamerican University and a PhD from Penn State University. He has already held his first meeting for the Cabinet for Young Children and looks forward to the strengthening policies and services for the City's youngest citizens.